

Reduced to Hope

Lamentations 3:19-24



“Suffering has a way of reframing everything we once held dear... How can we find comfort in the very God who could heal our deepest wounds with a word, yet seemingly chooses not to?

We start wondering if God even cares about our pain – **but that wondering seems too scandalous to voice.”**

– Veneetha Risner (Foreword)
Just Be Honest, by Clint Watkins

“I thought strong faith meant never questioning God, that it had to look like boldly praising him as my world was ripped apart. So I said the right thing, thinking it was my job to defend God.

I assumed that letting people know I was struggling would damage their faith. It was a twisted way of thinking, but I felt responsible for what other people thought about God. And that sense of responsibility led me to pretend I was ok when I was dying inside. **It pushed me away** from facing my own **emotions**. It pushed me away from **community**. Most importantly, it pushed me away from **God**.”

– Veneetha Risner

Now in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen. But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

- Romans 8:24-27

“Sometimes, I would like someone to stand at the podium and say that they’re hurt right now.

That they’re angry right now. That they’re grieving right now. And that it probably won’t be resolved in the next 20 minutes.”

– Anna Kinghorn (Opinion Editor), Asbury Collegian

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A Stone of Remembrance

"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up... he named it Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far has the LORD helped us.'"

1 Samuel 7:12

"You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of His household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone."

Ephesians 2:19-20

**Placed and dedicated to the glory of God
this day, November 20, 2016
the 60th Anniversary of First Alliance Church**

**BECAUSE RIPPING
THE SKIN FROM YOUR
KNEE IN A BIKE WRECK**



**WASN'T PAINFUL
ENOUGH**